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## PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

### Section 1. General administrative information

Title of project

Implement The Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan

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BPA project number: 9702500  
Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy): 1/2000 ☐ Multiple actions?

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding  
Nez Perce Tribe

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Business acronym (if appropriate) NPT

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Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses  
7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 10.2C.1

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FWS/NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses  
NA

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Other planning document references

< Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan - Implementation, pg. 101  
< Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations/Action Plan, Suggested Long Term Restoration Strategy, pg. 55  
< Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations/Action Plan, Suggested Long Term Restoration Strategy, pg. 55  
< Wy Kan Ush Me Wa Kush Wit - Recommendations, Vol. 1 pg. 5A-2

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Short description

Maintenance and/or restoration of salmon habitat through cooperative and voluntary methods is a stated goal in the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan. Funding of this project will help to implement the Plan.

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Target species

Chinook, summer steelhead, bull trout

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### Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

Subbasin

**Evaluation Process Sort**

<b>CBFWA caucus</b>	<b>Special evaluation process</b>	<b>ISRP project type</b>
Mark one or more caucus	If your project fits either of these processes, mark one or both	Mark one or more categories
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anadromous fish <input type="checkbox"/> Resident fish <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-year (milestone-based evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed project evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed councils/model watersheds <input type="checkbox"/> Information dissemination <input type="checkbox"/> Operation & maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> New construction <input type="checkbox"/> Research & monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation & management <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat acquisitions

**Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects*****Umbrella / sub-proposal relationships.*** List umbrella project first.

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project title/description</b>

***Other dependent or critically-related projects***

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project title/description</b>	<b>Nature of relationship</b>
9403900	Wallowa Basin Project Planner	Oversees 9702500
9202601	Grande Ronde Model Watershed-Administration	Uses information developed by the Model Watershed Program and keeps the Model Watershed Program informed of habitat projects implemented by this project.
9402700	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Implementation	Compliments projects implemented by the Model Watershed Program.
8805301	Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project	Provides the habitat/production tie.
9604400	Grande Ronde Basin Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program	Provides the habitat/production tie in the Lostine River, the stream in Wallowa County included in the Captive Brood Program.

**Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules*****Past accomplishments***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Accomplishment</b>	<b>Met biological objectives?</b>
1997	Seeded major slumps in the north part of Wallowa County following the January 1, 1997 rain on snow event.	yes
1997	Beak Consultants contract to develop a bull trout position paper for Wallowa County in reference to the proposed listing and for a possible	

	countywide Habitat Conservation Plan.	
1998	Finalized the Lostine IFIM study and report.	
1998	Relocated 0.36 miles of road out of the riparian zone in the Lightning Creek watershed, a tributary to the Imnaha River.	Yes
1998	Streambank protection and habitat improvement project on the lower Imnaha River.	Time will tell.

### ***Objectives and tasks***

<b>Obj 1,2,3</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Task a,b,c</b>	<b>Task</b>
1	Implement the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan.	a	Coordinate between the Wallowa County Court, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee.
		b	Determine which expenses associated with implementing the County/Tribe Plan are appropriate for funding under this project and fund them.
		c	Determine consultant or additional expertise needed to implement the County/Tribe Plan and contract for it.
2	Maintain and /or restore salmon habitat and watershed conditions in Wallowa County.	a	Work with the Wallowa County NRAC's Standing Committee to determine which types of projects are fundable under this project.
		b	Work with land owners, ODFW, NRCS, USFS, and Wallowa County Public Works to develop specific project proposals.
		c	Use the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee's Technical Committee to review project proposals and then, if approved, fund them.
3	Foster watershed stewardship through education.	a	Work with the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District.
		b	Work with Wallowa Resources.
		c	Work with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program.
		d	Work with local schools.

### ***Objective schedules and costs***

<b>Obj #</b>	<b>Start date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>End date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>Measureable biological objective(s)</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>FY2000 Cost %</b>
1	5/1997				25.00%
2	5/1997		Improved watershed conditions.	Removal of streams from the State's 303d list.	55.00%
3	5/1997		Improved landowner and county resident understanding of watershed function.		20.00%

				<b>Total</b>	200.00%
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#### **Schedule constraints**

1. NEPA, NMFS/USF&WS, consultation and fill and removal permit applications may take longer than anticipated.
2. Project opportunities may occur which were not anticipated.
3. Land owner availability for projects may change.
4. Unforeseen issues.

#### **Completion date**

When all streams in Wallowa County are off the State's 303d list and chinook, steelhead, and Bull Trout are removed from ESA listing.

## **Section 5. Budget**

**FY99 project budget (BPA obligated):** \$40,000

#### ***FY2000 budget by line item***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>% of total</b>	<b>FY2000</b>
Personnel	Volunteer		0
Fringe benefits			0
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	Project materials such as pipe, water troughs, fencing, etc. (Obj. 2)	% 52	26,125
Operations & maintenance	0		
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)			
NEPA costs	Cost share		0
Construction-related support			
PIT tags	# of tags:		0
Travel			0
Indirect costs	5%	% 5	2,500
Subcontractor	Consultants, expertise (Obj. 1)	% 23	11,875
Other	Education and materials (Obj. 3)	% 19	9,500
<b>TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>

#### ***Cost sharing***

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Item or service provided</b>	<b>% total project cost (incl. BPA)</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Habitat project proposer	minimum 25% cost share per project	% 10	8,708
Nez Perce Tribe	Writing project proposals, field time, NEPA, permit applications, oversight, etc.	% 6	5,500
Wallowa County Court	Oversight	% 1	1,000
Wallowa County NRAC	Project review	% 2	2,160
ODFW	field time, NEPA, fencing supplies, etc.	% 5	4,000

Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District	Provide landowner contact, provide office help	%2	2,200
NRCS	Engineering expertise	%7	6,000
<b>Total project cost (including BPA portion)</b>			<b>\$79,568</b>

### ***Outyear costs***

	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY02</b>	<b>FY03</b>	<b>FY04</b>
<b>Total budget</b>	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

## **Section 6. References**

<b>Watershed?</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1987. Nez Perce Tribe Evaluation of the LSRCP Hatchery Production in the Grande Ronde River Subbasin-Working Paper. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Id.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1990. Northeast Oregon Salmon and Steelhead Production Facilities -Draft Master Plan, Grande Ronde River. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Id.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1995. Bear Creek Action Plan. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1995. Lostine River Habitat Assessment. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bryson, Don. 1998. Big Sheep Creek Habitat Assessment. Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carmichael, Rich and Ron Boyce. 1986. U.S. v Oregon Grande Ronde River Spring Chinook Production Report. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, La Grande, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission. 1995. Wy-Kan-Ush-Me-Wa-Kush-Wit-Spirit of the Salmon. Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Protection Agency. 1993. Monitoring Protocols to Evaluate Water Quality Effects of Grazing Management on Western Rangeland Streams. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle, Wa.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program. 1994. Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations-Action Plan. Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, La Grande, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mobrand Biometrics, Inc. 1997. Application of the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Method to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project. Mobrand Biometrics, Inc., Vashon, Wa.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Marine Fisheries Service. 1995. Proposed Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon. National Marine Fisheries Service, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Resource Conservation Service. 1995. Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Big Sheep Creek. Natural Resource Conservation Service, Enterprise, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Resource Conservation Service. 1996. Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Little Sheep Creek. Natural Resource Conservation Service, Enterprise, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1990. Imnaha River Subbasin Salmon and Steelhead Production Plan. Northwest Power Planning Council, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. 1990. Grande Ronde River Subbasin Salmon and Steelhead Production Plan. Northwest Power Planning Council, Portland, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	R2 Resource Consultants, Inc. 1997. Lostine River Instream Flow Study-Draft. R2 Resource Consultants, Inc., Redmond, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reckendorf & Associates. 1996. Bear Creek Fish Enhancement-Wallowa County, Oregon. Reckendorf & Associates, Salem, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Forest Service, ODFW, CRITFC, NPT, CTUIR, and OSU. 1992. Upper Grande Ronde River Anadromous Fish Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Monitoring Plan. Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Baker City, Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. 1996. Status of the Interior

	Columbia Basin-Summary of Scientific Findings. U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, Portland. Or.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wallowa County, and the Nez Perce Tribe. 1993. Wallowa Count/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan. Wallowa County, Enterprise, Or.
<input type="checkbox"/>	

## PART II - NARRATIVE

### Section 7. Abstract

The goal of this project is to help implement the County/Tribe Plan. As such, there is close coordination between the County Court and the Tribe on prioritizing expenditures from this project. A Natural Resource Advisory Committee has been established by the County Court, with an associated technical committee, that reviews issues relating to natural resources and advises the Court. The Technical Committee will review all on-the-ground projects prior to their implementation.

The objectives are: 1) implement the County/Tribe Plan, 2) work with local landowners to develop habitat projects that will improve watershed conditions and fund them, 3) foster watershed stewardship through education.

The above efforts are expected to result in: 1) public education, 2) habitat projects, 3) increased salmon returns, and 4) removal of streams in Wallowa County from the State's 303d list. This process will take decades to complete but initial benefits of improving in-stream flows and eliminating passage problems will be immediate.

The FWP concepts that this project supports are: 1) a healthy Columbia Basin, 2) maintain biological diversity, and 3) provide needed habitat protection. The FWP (Sections 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, and 10.2C) emphasize the need to seek cooperative habitat protection and improvement with private landowners. This project takes a watershed approach and works through political boundaries.

All habitat projects have a monitoring component and a watershed level monitoring plan is being developed through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program. Monitoring coordination is essential and will consist of: 1) uniform monitoring protocols proposed by ODEQ and EPA (EPA 1993), 2) sharing equipment, and 3) a comprehensive watershed level monitoring program.

### Section 8. Project description

#### a. Technical and/or scientific background

The Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins are located in the extreme N.E. corner of Oregon. The Grande Ronde River subbasin was historically an important producer of anadromous fish, including: chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), sockeye (*O. nerka*), coho (*O. kisutch*), and steelhead (*O. mykiss*). All of these species were present in the Wallowa River. Early fall chinook (which spawned from mid-September through October), sockeye, and coho are now extinct. The remaining populations are at severely depressed levels when compared to historical levels. The Imnaha River also produced chinook, coho, and steelhead, of which coho are extinct and fall chinook may now be strays from the mainstem Snake River. Spring, summer, and fall chinook populations are seriously depressed. No sport harvest on chinook has occurred in Wallowa County since 1974. The Nez Perce Tribe has closed the County's streams to Tribal harvest. Native summer steelhead populations are also seriously depressed. Summer steelhead sport harvest has been restricted to hatchery fish in both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins since the mid-1980s.

Spring, summer, and fall chinook and bull trout have been listed under ESA. This elevates the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins' importance relative to subbasins where they are not listed.

The major causes of the loss of anadromous fish production in Wallowa County are: habitat destruction (both in-basin and out-of-basin), lower Columbia and ocean fishing pressure, turn-of-the-century in-basin hatchery programs, and dam construction on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Carmichael and Boyce (1986) summarized spring chinook production potentials for streams in the Wallowa drainage and estimated the loss in production potential due to in-basin habitat degradation. The decline in production potential since the late 1950s was estimated to be 20 percent in the Lostine River and Bear Creek and 70 percent in the Wallowa River and Hurricane Creek. No estimate was made for Prairie Creek or the Imnaha subbasin and the Wenaha River was felt to be unchanged. No estimates were made for steelhead streams.

Wallowa County falls within the high to moderate range for Composite Ecological Integrity Ratings according to the *Status of the Interior Columbia Basin, Summary of Scientific Findings* (USFS 1996) which implies that habitat fixes will be less expensive now than later if habitat conditions are allowed to deteriorate. As it is, most streams in Wallowa County are listed on the State's 303d list. It is expected that this project will result in an upward trend in watershed conditions, removal of Wallowa County's streams from the State's 303d list, improved in stream survival for fish, and benefits for wildlife.

The Wallowa County Court and the Nez Perce Tribe (Wallowa County 1993) established a public ad-hoc committee in 1992 to develop the *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan* (County/Tribe Plan). The committee was composed of representatives from: the local community, agriculture, grazing, business, labor, large land owners, small woodlands, the timber industry, environmental community, Wallowa County Court (local government), The Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The county was divided into watersheds and the watersheds were further broken into segments along land use or land-form boundaries. The watershed segments were then analyzed for water quantity and quality issues and various stream structure issues. Problems were identified and possible solutions for the problems were also identified. Information from the Imnaha Subbasin Plan (NPT 1990) and the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan (ODFW 1990) was used in developing the County/Tribe Plan.

The County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) was viewed as the first step in an ongoing coordination, planning, and project implementation process. This project is the implementation part of the process. The County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) is a county wide habitat assessment and it was understood that Watershed Action Plans or Comprehensive Resource Management Plans, developed with the landowners in the individual watersheds, would follow. These plans would be more site specific than the County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) and would in turn lead to site specific analysis, project development, and implementation.

The County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1992) has been incorporated into the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. In June, 1996 (Order 96-011), the County Court established the Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) whose mission was to advise the Court on natural resource issues. The Committee has up to 20 members representing the Nez Perce Tribe, County Court, Federal and State agencies, landowners, industry, environmental, community, business, and professional interests. The NRAC has an Advisory Committee and a Technical Committee which work with Project #9702500 (County/Tribe Plan Implementation) as described elsewhere in this proposal. The NRAC's Technical and Advisory committee's membership is listed in Section 9 (Key Personnel). None of the individuals on the NRAC and associated committees are compensated for their time.

From the beginning, it was recognized in the County/Tribe Plan (Wallowa County 1993) that watersheds had to be viewed as a whole and that, where possible, solutions should be applied to the headwater reaches and uplands first and that political boundaries should not dictate what could be accomplished. This would help to minimize the probability that an unresolved upland or headwater issue would destroy lower elevation or lower stream fixes. Adaptive management principals would guide the process. This project endorses and applies these principals. This does not mean, however, that projects will not be implemented

in the lower reaches of streams if the projects address critical limiting factors (e.g. migration or over winter habitat). These types of projects may not persist over the long term but are essential in the short term.

Quality habitat is essential for continued existence of Snake River salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The big underlying assumption for habitat issues in Wallowa County is that local landowners, when provided with sufficient information, can make land management decisions that will allow them to continue to earn a living while providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Without local landowner buy-in to projects implemented in the different watersheds, the probability of persistence over time is poor.

#### **b. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs**

Section 7, pg 7-1 of the FWP (NPPC 1994) emphasizes the need to work with local communities, the need for coordination between the public and private sector, the utility of developing a model watershed program, and the need to work with existing local and regional programs rather than creating new processes. The *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan* (Wallowa County 1993) emphasizes the need to work at the watershed level and across ownership lines. In the AOutline for Implementation section (page 101), the need to develop the Natural Resource Advisory Committee is described. The *Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program Operations-Action Plan* (Grande Ronde 1994) states in the Introduction (pg 1-2) Goals (pg 3), and Model Watershed Organization (pg 4-6) the need to work with the local community and to work at a watershed level, not just in the riparian zone. In the Suggested Long-Term Restoration Strategy section (pg 55) the need for an interdisciplinary approach to watershed level analyses and the importance of M&E and adaptive management. The *Wy-Kan-Ush-Me-Wa-Kush-Wit* (CRITFC 1995) (pg 5A-2) describes the need to AEmploy voluntary, multi-stakeholder collaborative approaches to protect, restore and monitor natural resources and to resolve natural resource conflicts. In the *Proposed Recovery Plan for the Snake River Salmon* (NMFS 1995) Approach to Recovery section (pg V-1-6), they state AAn ecosystem approach that emphasizes integrated Federal and Non-Federal land management is needed. All of the above documents emphasize the need for collaborative and coordinated efforts across property lines and the need to work at a watershed level.

All of the above plans, developed by Federal and State agencies, Tribes, local governments, and landowners emphasize and support the concepts and activities found in BPA project # 9702500 (Implementation of the County/Tribe Plan).

#### **c. Relationships to other projects**

BPA project #9403900 (Wallowa Basin Project Planning) provides coordination, planning and, along with the Wallowa County Court, oversight of BPA project # 9702500. The person employed under project #9403900 writes the project proposals and provides NEPA and permit applications (e.g. USCOE/State 404 permits), and NEPA compliance checklists required for habitat projects funded under this project.

This project uses information and focus areas developed by BPA Project #9202601 (Grande Ronde Model Watershed Administration), and the concepts and information developed by the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Project, to prioritize areas for project development. This does not mean, however, that projects from outside of focus areas that “walk in off the street” won’t be accepted for consideration. The Model Watershed Program is kept informed of habitat projects implemented by this project so that the projects can be recorded in and retrieved from the GIS system.

Because this project implements the *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan*, however, expenditures are jointly decided by the Wallowa County Court and the Nez Perce Tribe. Habitat projects are reviewed by the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee’s Technical Committee. The Technical Committee’s recommendations are then forwarded (via the Standing Committee) to the County Court and the Nez Perce Tribe as a fund or no fund. The Court and the Tribe then jointly make the final determination for project funding.



Habitat projects developed under project 9702500 are coordinated with the two hatchery programs (NEOH-8805301 and the Captive Broodstock program-960440). This coordination is related to the hatchery program's facility locations and release streams. This will help to provide optimal conditions for artificial rearing (water quality) and post release survival (habitat conditions).

Equipment purchased under this project will be shared with the Wallowa SWCD, the Wallowa Extension Office, ODFW, and the USFS.

**d. Project history** (for ongoing projects)

This project started in May, 1997. No reports other than quarterly and project reports are expected.

The FY97 obligation was for \$50,000 and, although \$50,000 was requested for FY98, \$28,500 was provided after needed budget cuts were implemented to get the total cost of watershed projects down to the available level of funding from BPA. The FY99 funding request was also for \$50,000 but was cut to \$40,000 for the same reasons as in FY98.

Budget expenditures have been for:

1. Subcontract with the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District to provide staff to help facilitate the operation of the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee in its efforts to implement the County/Tribe Plan.
2. Purchase of Oregon certified seed, in cooperation with ODFW, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, BPA, and local landowners, to reseed areas along the Washington/Oregon border that had slumped during the January 1, 1997 rain on snow event. The purpose was to reduce the potential for further erosion and the potential for establishment of noxious weed populations in Wallowa County.
3. Finalization of the Lostine IFIM study.
4. Contract with Beak Consultants to help the County prepare documentation and testimony for a USF&WS sponsored public meeting in Boise, Id. on the proposed Bull Trout listing and to prepare for a meeting with NMFS and USF&WS in preparation for pursuing a county wide Habitat Conservation Plan.
5. Relocated 0.36 miles of road out of the riparian zone in the Lightning Creek drainage (tributary to the Imnaha River).
6. Completed a streambank stabilization and habitat improvement project on the lower Imnaha River.

**e. Proposal objectives**

The objectives and expected outcomes for this project are:

Objectives:

1. Implement the *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan*.
2. Work with local landowners to develop habitat projects that will improve watershed conditions and fund small habitat projects that would normally fall through the cracks of the present funding programs. The usual funding programs have specific timelines for application submittals. Projects funded under this program will often be "over the back fence" developed projects where money is available immediately but may not be available during the next regularly scheduled project submittal period.
3. Foster watershed stewardship through education. The educational component of the project will be developed by the NRAC. Some of the money will be used to continue educational projects that are threatened with elimination by USFS budget cuts.

Outcomes:

1. Landowner knowledge of watershed function will increase.
2. Local landowners will make land management decisions, when provided with sufficient information, that will allow them to continue to earn a living while providing habitat for fish and wildlife.

3. Increased landowner involvement.
4. Completed watershed restoration projects.
5. Measurable improvements in watershed habitat conditions, including water quantity and quality.
6. Removal of Wallowa County streams from the State's 303d list.

All of the above outcomes result from implementing Objective 1. The first and second outcomes are related to Objective 3. Outcomes 3-6 are related to the second objective. The only reports from this project are those associated with specific projects.

#### **f. Methods**

##### **Assumptions:**

1. Resource use, healthy economies, and healthy eco-systems are compatible.
2. It is unlikely that project implementation will be successful over the long term without good planning, assessment, and coordination.
3. Without local landowner buy-in to projects implemented in the different watersheds, the probability of persistence over time is poor.
4. When viewing a watershed as a connected environment, it is unlikely that a project implemented in the watershed will have adverse effects on species existing in the watershed unless the intent of the project is to have an adverse effect (e.g. star thistle elimination).
5. Environmental attributes found in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins will improve from implementation of this project which will benefit fish and wildlife.

##### **Methods:**

1. Use the County/Tribe Plan as a county wide habitat assessment.
2. Coordinate project planning, implementation, and monitoring with the Wallowa County Court, Wallowa SWCD, Wallowa County Extension Service, Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, ODFW, ODF, ODEQ, USFS, BLM, BOR, BPA, NRCS, NMFS, USF&WS, and local landowners.
3. Watershed planning and project development occurs on a watershed (ridge top to ridge top) basis, not just in stream bottoms, without regard for political boundaries.
4. Utilize the Grande Ronde Eco-system Diagnosis and Treatment (GREDT) concepts for selecting project areas. The GREDT concepts are: 1) protect existing critical life history pathways, 2) fix existing but damaged life history pathways, and 3) restore lost life history pathways.
5. Utilize focus areas for chinook and steelhead established by the Grande Ronde Model Watershed's Technical Committee to direct watershed project development. Projects outside of the focus areas, however, won't be ignored if a willing landowner comes forward with a project proposal.
6. Projects will be taken on a first come first serve basis.
7. Projects that require consultation with NMFS or USF&WS for ESA and/or require permits must be submitted six months in advance of the instream work window prescribed by ODFW.
8. The maximum amount available for cost-share projects is \$2,000.
9. Develop Biological Assessments on a project-by-project basis and complete other NEPA documentation as needed.
10. Use Wallowa County NRAC's Technical Committee to review watershed projects for technical competence and applicability.

11. Educational projects will be developed by the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, Wallowa Resources, local schools, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Participation in the Wallowa County Fair is one possible area for public education. Some of the money may be used to continue educational projects that are threatened by USFS budget cuts. Wallowa High School is monitoring water quality at various locations in lower Wallowa Valley as an educational project.
12. Use monitoring results to direct adaptive management. Not all projects will produce the expected results. Monitoring will provide the information needed to change the design of the present and future projects.

**Criteria for project selection:**

1. Does the project fill a defined need?
2. Is the project technically sound?
3. Does the project benefit fish?
4. Does the project implement the habitat improvements and/or watershed enhancement needs as identified in the Wallowa County Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan, watershed assessments, or other plans?

**Fundable types of habitat projects, as determined to be by the County NRAC Standing Committee (Objective 2, Task a):**

Practice name and code are from the NRCS handbook.

Cost share is the maximum percent of a project cost that this project will fund.

<u>Practice Name</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Cost Share (&lt;=)</u>
Animal Trailways/Walkways	575	75%
Channel Vegetation	322	75%
Dike	356	75%
Diversion	362	75%
Fence	382	75%
Filter Strip	393	75%
Fish Stream Improvement	395	75%
Grade Stabilization Structure	410	75%
Grassed Waterway	412	75%
Heavy Use Area Protection	561	75%
Pipeline	516	75%
Pond	378	75%
Pond Sealing or Lining	521	75%
Flexible Membrane	521A	75%
Riparian Forest Buffer	391	75%
Sediment Basin	350	75%
Spring Development	574	75%
Stream Channel Stabilization	584	75%
Streambank Protection	580	75%
Structure for Water Control	587	75%
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612	75%
Trough or Tank	614	75%
Waste Treatment Lagoon	359	75%
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638	75%
Water Table Control	641	75%
Well	642	75%
Wetland Development or Restoration	657	75%

**Project submittal process:**

1. Project is submitted to the NRAC Technical Committee which provides a technical review to the NRAC Standing Committee.
2. The NRAC Standing Committee will provide a recommendation to the County Court and the Nez Perce Tribe who will then jointly approve or disapprove the project.

#### **Monitoring:**

1. All watershed projects have a monitoring component specific to the project. The less technical monitoring (e.g. photopoints) is accomplished by the project proposer. Water quality and quantity monitoring is frequently done by Wallowa SWCD personnel or other professionals in the county (i.e. NPT, ODFW, County Extension, USFS, etc). Some of the results from projects, however, may be too small to be detected at the individual project level.
2. A watershed level and subbasin level monitoring plan is being developed through the Grande Ronde Model Watershed program. This will provide a standardized process to monitor the incremental and cumulative effects of many small projects on a watershed or basin level.
3. Photos will be pre and post project completion. Follow-up photos may be necessary depending on the type of project (e.g. riparian restoration). Photos should be taken at the same location and time of day with the same camera, type of film, and camera settings. It is also preferable that light conditions be the same. This will necessitate good field notes.
4. Habitat assessment methods used by ODFW and the USFS (Hankin and Reeves methodology) are being standardized. These surveys will be used to monitor habitat trends over time.
5. Irrigation diversion gages and stream gages installed in Bear Creek, the Lostine River, and the Wallowa River (between the Cross Country Canal and Dry Creek) will provide information on water use and hydrology. This information will be used to work with irrigators to develop projects that will improve water quantity at critical low flow times and areas within the watershed.
6. Temperature monitoring conforms to ODEQ standards and other monitoring conforms to EPA protocols (EPA 1993). ODEQ requires that thermographs be calibrated against thermometers calibrated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology if the data is to be used to remove streams from the State's 303d list. EPA (1993) lays out protocols for monitoring stream temperature and shade, nutrients, bacterial indicators, stream channel morphology, stream bank stability, substrate and fine sediment, pool quality, streamside vegetation, establishing permanent photo points, and biomonitoring (benthic macro invertebrates and fish communities).
7. ODFW, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the USFS conduct annual spring chinook and summer steelhead spawning ground surveys. These surveys can be used to monitor population trends over time.

#### **Expected Results:**

1. Removal of streams in Wallowa County from the State's 303d list.
2. Overall improvement in watershed condition in all watersheds.
3. Improved egg-to-smolt survival for salmonids.
4. Increased returns of salmon to Wallowa County.
5. Increased landowner understanding of watershed processes.

#### **Uncertainties:**

1. Local residents do not control what happens downstream from Wallowa County and Wallowa County residents can not save chinook salmon in the Snake River Basin nor can they insure that any salmon will survive to return to the county.

2. Mainstem passage may not improve which could negate the benefits of increased survival from egg-to-smolt.
3. Ocean and estuary survivals can depend on large scale climatic effects which may increase or decrease survival.
4. A lack of success in returning salmon to the watersheds in Wallowa County could discourage people from continuing to participate.
5. Some projects may not perform as expected or natural events such as floods or fires may damage or destroy the projects or overshadow any improvements in habitat conditions resulting from the projects.
6. Many projects may not show significant changes in habitat conditions for several years which makes mid-course corrections difficult.

**Project Tracking:**

1. The Wallowa SWCD and the Nez Perce Tribe will track project completion and develop reports.

**Permanent files:**

1. Permanent files will be kept at the Wallowa County SWCD office.
2. All project reports will be submitted to the GRMW Program office for inclusion into their GIS data base.

**g. Facilities and equipment**

No one is employed directly on this project. The success of this project is due to the coordination and staff time provided by the Wallowa County Court, Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, Wallowa County Extension Service, Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Office staff and computers from the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District and the Nez Perce Tribe (from BPA Project #9403900) are provided for the project. The Wallowa County Extension Office provides the meeting room. A DR2010 Water Quality Lab from HACH, various types of continuously recording thermographs, flow meters, and ISCO sediment samplers are available in the county. Additional monitoring equipment may be purchased if a need is shown to exist in the County. Most of the equipment needed for the project already is owned by either the Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa County Extension, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW, or the USFS. The Natural Resource Conservation Service provides engineering expertise.

**h. Budget**

Personnel and fringe: no salaries are paid from this project's budget.

Supplies: covers expenses in purchasing supplies to complete habitat projects (e.g. irrigation pipe, water troughs, gravel, fencing material, etc.).

NEPA: done as an in-kind cost share by the individual employed under BPA Project #9403900 (Wallowa Basin Project Planner).

Travel: there is no travel associated with this project.

Indirect cost: at 5% covers Wallowa County's costs associated with administering the contract for this project.

Subcontractor: used as needed.

Other: used for educational projects. Educational projects would include working with schools to provide tours, workshops, or speakers. Workshops and speakers may also be provided for landowners and other interested parties. Some of the money may also be used to continue educational projects that are threatened with elimination by USFS budget cuts. This money could also be used to pay for rental on meeting rooms, bringing in speakers, producing displays for symposiums and county fairs, and expanding the *Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan* (Wallowa County 1993) into a multi-species plan based on habitat and cover types.

## **Section 9. Key personnel**

No FTEs are associated with this project so there are no key personnel. The Nez Perce Tribe and the County Court oversee this project and the NRAC's Standing and Technical committees are directly associated with day-to-day implementation.

Contacts and their constituency are listed below.

Nez Perce Tribe: Don Bryson;  
612 S.W. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Enterprise, Or 97828; (541) 426-0119

Wallowa County Court: Mike Hayward, Ben Boswell, and Darrel McFetridge;  
101 S. River, Enterprise, Or 97828; (541) 426-4543, ext. 11

Natural Resource Advisory Committee/Standing Committee: Don Bryson-Nez Perce Tribe/Fisheries, Mike Hayward-County Court, Cynthia Warnock-Resource Conservation, Cassandra Botts-Landowner, Jimmy Roberts-Federal management, John Williams-OSU Extension, Rod Childers-Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District and Ranching, Bruce Dunn-Timber;

Contact person-Cynthia Warnock; 209 N.W. First, Enterprise, Or 97828; (541) 426-4588

Natural Resource Advisory Committee/Technical Committee; Don Bryson-Nez Perce Tribe/Fisheries, Brad Smith-Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tom Smith-Natural Resource Conservation Service, Jimmy Roberts-Federal Management, John Williams-OSU Extension, Howard Strobel-Oregon Department of Forestry, Bruce Dunn-Timber, Bill Oliver-County Planning Department, Randy Strohm-County Public Works/Road Department, Tom Macy-Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program;

Contact person-Cynthia Warnock; 209 N.W. First, Enterprise, Or 97828; (541) 426-4588

## **Section 10. Information/technology transfer**

The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program will provide the tie between Wallowa County and Union County for information transfers. Local landowner meetings are presently being held in the Bear Creek, Lostine River, Big Sheep Creek, and Little Sheep Creek watersheds. These meetings provide a forum for providing and discussing information and have resulted in the development of an Action Plan for Bear Creek and CRMPs for Big Sheep Creek and Little Sheep Creek.

There are monthly coordination meetings between the County Court, Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa SWCD, NRCS, ODFW, USFS, ODF. These coordination meetings are held to keep the various agencies and entities informed of new information and of activities occurring in the County and to eliminate the overlap of activities where desirable. This helps to utilize scarce resources in the most economical fashion.

There is close coordination with the County Court and Planning Department through participation on the County Natural Resource Advisory Committee and its associated Standing Committee and Technical Committee.

The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program works in both Wallowa and Union counties. As such, information on techniques that work and projects that are implemented under this project will be collected at the Model Watershed office and be made available as needed.

**Congratulations!**